Message Text

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CINCPACREP GUAM FOR HICOM AND STATUS LNO COMTWELVE FOR AMB WILLIAMS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, TQ, US, CH, IO

SUBJ: TTPI: MARINE CORPS TRAINING EXERCISE ON TINIAN

FROM AMB WHITE

SUMMARY: RECOMMEND THAT FORTHCOMING MARINE CORPS TRAINING EXERCISE ON TINIAN BE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL SESSION END JUNE 20, AND THAT USG CONSULT WITH APPROPRIATE MICRONESIAN POLITICAL LEADERS BEFORE MAKING PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXERCISE. END SUMMARY.

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT US MARINES PLANNING TO CONDUCT AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING EXERCISE (SHORT JAB) ON MILITARY RETENTION LAND ON TINIAN IN EARLY JUNE. WHILE WE UNFAMILIAR WITH DETAILS OF EXERCISE OR RATIONALE BEHIND IT, WE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT ITS TIMING. TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL WILL BEGIN JUNE 3 ITS THREE-WEEK ANNUAL DEBATE OF CONDITIONS IN TTPI. WITH TC IN SESSION, OPPONENTS OF EXERCISE WILL HAVE CONVENIENT FORUM IN NEW YORK FROM WHICH TO PUBLICIZE THEIR OPPOSITION, SINCE THEY CAN REQUEST (AND WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE GRANTED) IMMEDIATE HEARING. US AND FOREIGN MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES USUALLY HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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RELATIVELY LITTLE TO REPORT FORM UN IN JUNE AND WOULD BE

INCLINED TO DRAMATIZE CHARGES FROM MICRONESIANS AND OTHER THAT US MILITARY SUDDENLY INCREASING ITS INVOLVEMENT IN WESTERN PACIFIC. WE CONCERNED THAT SUCH CHARGES COULD STIMULATE IN TC CONTEXT BOTH CHINESE (WHO HAVE NOT PARTICIPATED IN TC SINCE THEIR ADMISSION TO UN) AND SOVIETS (WHO HAVE TAKEN LOW-KEY APPROACH TO TTPI IN LAST TWO YEARS).

2. AS FAR FETCHED AS IT MAY SEEM, TIMING OF EXERCISE MAY ALSO CAUSE MEDIA AND OTHER MISSIONS HERE TO LINK IT TO DIAGO GARCIA AS PART OF EXPANDED US MILITARY PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN AND WESTERN PACIFIC. WE NOTE THAT UN'S AD HOC COMITE ON INDIAN OCEAN SCHEDULED TO MEET JUNE 3-7.

3. ON BASIS MY RECENT TRIP THROUGH TTPI, I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS STRONG HOPE THAT US WILL NOT ONLY CONSULT FULLY WITH APPROPRIATE MICRONESIAN LEADERS, (PARTICULARLY CHAIRMAN MARIANAS STATUS COMMISSION PANGELINAN) WELL BEFORE MAKING ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF TRAINING EXERCISE, BUT WILL ALSO COORDINATE CONTENT OF PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT WITH THEM. DURING MY RECENT VISIT, I GAINED DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT MANY RECENT WORTHWHILE USG INITIATIVES AFFECTING TRUST TERRITORY RUN INTO STILL CRITICISM FROM MICORNESIAN LEADERS PRIMARILY BECAUSE LATTER NOT CONSULTED AHEAD OF TIME ON ISSUES OF DIRECT CONCERN TO THEM.

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